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I'm Growing Old.

My days pass pleasantly away;
My nights are blest with sweetest sleep;
I feel no symptoms of decay;
I have no cause to mourn nor weep;
My foes are impotent and shy;
My friends are neither false nor cold,
And yet of late, I often sigh—
I'm growing old!

My growing lack of olden times,
My growing thirst for early news,
My growing aptness to rhyme,
My growing love of easy shoes,
My growing hate of crowds and noise,
My growing fear of taking cold,
All whisper in the plainest voice,
I'm growing old!

I'm growing fonder of my staff;
I'm growing dimmer in the eyes;
I'm growing fainter in my laugh;
I'm growing deeper in my sighs;
I'm growing careless of my dress;
I'm growing frugal of my gold;
I'm growing wise; I'm growing—yes—
I'm growing old!

I see it in my changing taste;
I see it in my changing hair;
I see it in my growing waist;
I see it in my growing hair;
A thousand signs proclaim the truth,
As plain as truth was ever told,
That even in my vaunted youth,
I'm growing old!

Ah me!—my very laurels breathe
The tale in my reluctant ears,
And every boon the Hours bequeath
But makes me debtor to the years!
E'en Flattery's honeyed words declare
The secret she would fain withhold,
And tell me in "How young you are!"
I'm growing old!

Thanks for the years!—whose rapid flight
My sombre mure too sadly sings;
Thanks for the gleams of golden light
That dart the darkness of their wings;
The light that beams from out the sky,
Those heavenly manions to unfold,
Where all are blest, and none may sigh,
"I'm growing old!"

The Negro Code.

Under a resolution of the late Convention, Judge WARDLAW and Hon. ARMSTRONG BURN, both of Abbeville, were appointed by Gov. FERRY to frame a Code of Laws for the regulation of labor, and the protection and government of the colored population; and for the constructing of a wise system of labor upon the ruins and with the fragments of that which has been so rudely and abruptly swept away. The two able and eminent gentlemen in question have performed their duty very faithfully; and their report cannot but aid the Legislature very much in the framing of the laws, which, under the new order of things in this State, it has become necessary to enact.

This Code of Messrs. WARDLAW and BURN is long and elaborate, comprising four bills, viz: "A Bill Preliminary to the Legislation Induced by the Emancipation of Slaves;" "A Bill to Establish and Regulate the Domestic Relations of Persons of Color, and to amend the Law in Relation to Paupers, Vagrants and Bastards;" "A Bill to Establish District Courts;" and "A Bill to amend the Criminal Law." These bills embrace such legislation, concerning negroes, as the emergency requires, and will no doubt receive the earliest consideration of the Legislature. As the Code is much too lengthy to publish as a whole, we will endeavor to give such a synopsis as will put our readers in possession of some of the most prominent features of the legislation recommended. When it becomes a law, however, we will certainly publish the Code in full.

Important provisions of the first bill above mentioned, are these:

1. All free negroes, mulattoes and mestizos, all freedmen and freedwomen, and all descendants, through either sex, of any of these persons, shall be known as persons of color, except that every such descendant who may have of Caucasian blood seven-eighths or more, shall be deemed a white person.
2. The statutes and regulations concerning slaves, are now inapplicable to persons of color; and although such persons are not entitled to social or political equality with white persons, they shall have the right to acquire, own and dispose of property; to make contracts; to enjoy the fruits of their labor; to sue and be sued; and to receive protection under the law in their persons and property.
3. All rights and remedies, respecting person or property, and all duties and liabilities under laws, civil and criminal, which apply to white persons, are extended to persons of color, subject to the modifications made in this Act, and the other Acts herein before mentioned.

The relations between husband and wife are amply provided for.

1. The relation of husband and wife, amongst persons of color, is established.
2. Cohabitation and reputation or recognition of the parties, shall be evidence of its existence, in cases criminal and civil.
3. Those who now live as such are declared to be husband and wife.
4. In cases of one man having two or more reputed wives, or one woman two or more reputed husbands, the man shall immediately hereafter select one of his reputed wives, and the woman one of her reputed husbands, and the ceremony of marriage between them respectively shall be performed.
5. All children heretofore born are declared to be legitimate.
6. Males under twenty-one and females under eighteen years of age, shall not be competent to marry, and it shall be a misdemeanor, for any person authorized to solemnize marriage, to perform the ceremony of marriage between them, if either of the parties is under the age herein prescribed.

The following are the recommendations of the Code regarding the apprenticing of the children of freedmen.

1. A child of colored parents, or of parents of whom one shall be a person of color, over the age of two years, may be bound by the father, if he be living in the District, or in case of his death or absence from the District, by the mother, as an apprentice to any respectable white or colored person, who is

competent to make a contract—a male, until he shall attain the age of twenty-one, and a female until she shall attain the age of eighteen years.

10. Illegitimate children, within the ages above specified, may be bound by the mother.

17. Colored children between the ages mentioned, who have neither father nor mother, living in the District in which they are found, or whose parents are paupers, or unable to afford to them a comfortable maintenance, or whose parents are not teaching them habits of industry and honesty, or are persons of notoriously bad character, or are vagrants, or have been convicted of infamous offenses, and colored children in all cases where they are in danger of moral contamination, may be bound as apprentices by the District Judge, or one of the Magistrates, for the aforesaid term.

18. Males of the age of twelve years and females of the age of ten years shall sign the indenture of apprenticeship, and be bound thereby.

19. When the apprentice is under these ages, and in all cases of compulsory apprenticeship where the infant refuses assent, his signature shall not be necessary to the validity of the apprenticeship, and the master's obligation of apprenticeship shall be executed in the presence of the District Judge, or one of the Magistrates, certified by him and filed in the office of the Clerk of the District Court.

20. The indenture of voluntary apprenticeship shall be under seal, and signed by the master, the parent and the apprentice, and attested by two credible witnesses, and approved by the District Judge, or one of the Magistrates.

21. All instruments of apprenticeship shall be executed in duplicate, one of which shall be retained by the master, and the other be filed in the office of the Clerk of the District Court.

22. The master or mistress shall teach the apprentice the business of husbandry, or some other useful trade, profession, or business, which shall be specified in the instrument of apprenticeship; shall furnish him wholesome food and suitable clothing, teach him habits of industry, honesty and morality, and govern and treat him with humanity and discretion, and, if there be a school, within a convenient distance, in which colored children are taught, shall send him to school, at least six weeks in every year of his apprenticeship, after he shall be of the age of ten years.

Concerning contracts for service—the most important matter of the whole affair, to most of our readers—we give the annexed important provisions:

32. All persons of color, who make contracts for service, or labor in husbandry, shall be known as servants, and those with whom they contract, shall be known as masters.

33. Contracts between masters and servants for more than one week, shall be in writing, and attested by one white witness, and shall be approved by the Judge of the District Court, or by one of the Magistrates.

34. The period of service shall be expressed in the contract; but if it be not expressed, it shall be until the twenty-fifth day of December of the year in which it is made.

35. If the rate of wages be not stipulated by the parties to the contract, it shall be fixed by the District Judge, or a Magistrate, on application by one of the parties, on notice to the other.

36. A person of color who has no parent living in the District, and is ten years of age, and is not an apprentice, may make a valid contract for one year's labor or service.

37. Contracts between masters and servants may be set aside for fraud or unfairness, notwithstanding they have been approved.

38. Contracts between masters and servants shall be presented for approval within twenty days after their execution.

39. Contracts shall not be binding on the servant unless they are in writing, and have been presented for approval within the time aforesaid.

40. For any neglect of the duty, to make a contract as herein directed, or the evasion of that duty by the employment of persons of color, from day to day, on his premises, the party offending shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and be liable, on conviction, to pay a sum not exceeding fifty dollars, and not less than five dollars, for each person so employed.

41. For the approval of a contract, the following fees shall be paid down to the District Judge or the Magistrate, as the case may be:

For a contract of one month or less, for each servant, \$30.00 cts.

For a contract not exceeding three months and more than one month, for each servant, \$1.00.

As regards the relations between Master and Servant, the Code provides that

47. When the servant shall depart from the service of the master, without good cause, he shall forfeit the wages due him. The servant shall obey all lawful orders of the master or his agent, and shall be honest, truthful, sober, civil and diligent in his business. The master may moderately correct servants, who have made contracts and are under eighteen years of age. He shall not be liable to pay for any additional or extraordinary services or labor of his servant, unless by his express agreement.

48. The master may discharge his servant for wilful disobedience of the lawful order of himself or his agent; habitual negligence or indolence in business; drunkenness; gross moral or legal misconduct; habitual want of respect and civility to himself, his family, guests or agents.

49. For any acts or things herein declared to be cause for the discharge of a servant, or for any breach of contract or duty by him, instead of discharging the servant, the master may complain to the District Judge or one of the Magistrates, who shall have power, on being satisfied of the misconduct complained of, to inflict on the servant such corporal punishment as is lawful in the army or navy of the United States, for similar misconduct or neglect of duty; or impose upon him such pecuniary fine as he may think fit, and immediately remand him to his work, which fine shall be deducted from his wages, if not otherwise paid.

50. If a master has made a valid contract with a servant, such servant may be compelled by the order of the District Judge or a Magistrate, to observe his contract, by infliction of the punishment or imposition of the fine, herein authorized in the case above stated.

51. The master shall not be liable for the voluntary trespasses, torts or misdemeanors of his servant. He shall not be liable for any contract of his servant, unless made by his express authority; nor for his acts, unless they shall be done within the scope of the authority entrusted to him by the master, or in the course of his employment, in which excepted cases the master shall be answerable for the fraud, negligence or want of skill of his servant. The master's right of self defence shall embrace his servant, and it shall be his duty to protect him from violence by others in his presence, and to render him moral aid and assistance, in obtaining redress for injury to his rights of person or property.

52. Any person who shall deprive a master of the service of his servant, by enticing him away, or by harboring and detaining him, knowing him to be a servant, beating, confining or otherwise injuring him, or by seducing or impregnating a female servant, shall be liable, on conviction thereof, to a fine not exceeding two hundred dollars, and not less than twenty dollars, and to imprisonment or hard labor, at the discretion of the Court; and also to an action by the master to recover damages for loss of service.

53. The rules and regulations prescribed for master and servant apply to persons in service as household servants, conferring the same rights, imposing the same duties with the following modifications:

Servants, in the various duties of the household, and in all the domestic duties of the family, shall, at all hours of the day or night, and on all days of the week, promptly answer all calls and obey and execute all lawful orders and commands of the family in whose service they are employed.

Masters and their families shall, after ten o'clock at night, and on Sunday, make no calls on their servants, nor exact any service of them which exigencies of the household or family do not make necessary or unavoidable.

56. The wages of household servants shall, in the absence of any agreement, be fixed by the Judge of the District Court or a Magistrate, and be payable at the end of each month.

57. It is the duty of this class or servants to be especially civil and polite to their masters, their families and guests, and they shall receive just and kind treatment.

58. In all contracts between master and servant for service, the foregoing relations shall be stipulations, unless it shall be otherwise provided in the contract.

59. A person of color, who wishes to pursue or practice the art, trade or business of an artisan, mechanic or shop-keeper, or any other trade, profession, employment or business, besides that of husbandry, on his own account, and for his own benefit, or in co-partnership with a white person, shall apply, by petition, to the Judge of the District Court, for a license therefor, who, upon being satisfied of the skill and fitness of the applicant, and of his good moral character, shall have power to grant him license upon the payment of ten dollars if a male, and three dollars if a female, to the Clerk of the District Court for the same.

A Touching Appeal.

We find in the Lynchburg Virginian of the 19th, an appeal from a number of slaves to their former masters for aid to enable them to emigrate to Liberia in Africa. The Virginian vouches for them as respectable men, and worthy of any help that may be extended to them.

LYNCHBURG, Oct. 17, 1865.

To our Former Masters:

We, a portion of your former slaves, have formed ourselves into a society, known as the African Emigration Society, for the sole purpose of migrating to Liberia, on the west coast of Africa, to convey the light and civilization that we have received here, even in a state of slavery, to our heathen brethren on that benighted and long-neglected continent. We expect to leave this city on the 1st of November next for our fatherland; and leave you all for no reason but the one above mentioned; none of us will carry with us the prejudices and ill-will that might arise from our being held in bondage by you, as your slaves. We know that you have been our best friends, and we feel it now the more, though we are free. You all know the peculiar situation the termination of the late war has left us in, so, therefore, we call upon you to aid us in our enterprise. We know your generous and sympathetic hearts will not let you stand aloof from us in our endeavors to do good for ourselves and people. Some of us are capable of conveying ideas of the mechanic arts; some can unfold to them, in our poor way, the marvelous light of the gospel, and point the way to God. We are not going to try to elevate the people of Liberia, because, from what we can learn, they are far our superiors in intelligence, wealth and learning; but Africa generally. Some of us have a good common education which we think will be of value to those who have no art. You know we are very poor; the smallest sums you can afford to contribute to our scheme will be very acceptable to us. We call upon you because we know the kind and generous impulses of your hearts, and you, on the other hand, know our situation and wants. Give us of the abundance of your wealth, a small sum, and we believe that you will be rewarded by Him who says, "He that giveth to the poor lendeth to the Lord." We think this will be our last request from your hands, so join and help us in our efforts to do good to our race.

We are over your friends and ob't serv'ts.

The Louisville Journal, urging the importance of producing a large cotton crop next season, advises that the negroes should be made to work, if they will not work voluntarily, or as a last resort, white labor should be obtained on the best terms possible. The Journal says:

"The present crop in the South will amount to little, but next year a great effort ought to be made to raise a large crop. Prices for a year or two to come, at least, are likely to rule high, probably not much less than forty cents. Now, if four million bales could be raised during 1866 it would amount, at that price, to the enormous sum of \$640,000,000, or about one-fourth of our national debt."

"This simple statement is sufficient to show of what importance a great crop of cotton next year will be both to the individual wealth of the country and to the Government in the payment of the national debt. Such a crop would send new life and activity through every channel of business from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean."

"The revenue of the Government would be of course correspondingly increased and the burdens lifted from the shoulders of the people. Every manufacturing village in the extreme North is interested in the cotton crop of next year as well as every farm in the Northwest."

Emigration and DeBow's Letter.

The South, at present, stands in need of working men, farmers and mechanics—the former being particularly wanted. Their speedy introduction by organized effort should engage the attention of every man who desires the quick restoration of prosperity, and the development of the great resources which nature has bestowed upon us. Much of our former system of working the soil will have to be changed, and the scientific farming system, practiced at the North and in the best cultivated countries of Europe, be substituted. Should not our districts immediately organize emigration associations, which should appoint agents to proceed to the North, Scotland, England, Belgium and Germany, who should be empowered to offer inducements to farmers of good character to come and settle on the soil of South Carolina? The agents should be men thoroughly conversant with the soil and climate, and such as would possess the energy to visit the farmers at their homes, and to set before them the great advantage of an immediate settlement in the South. Our former fellow-citizen, Mr. J. D. B. DeBow, has been writing an article in the Northern press, and addressed to Governor Perry, favoring emigration to this section. In the following statement he exhibits, by facts taken from the Census of 1850, the rapid strides of the North and West as compared with the South, which difference was largely owing to emigration. He says:

It followed that whilst the Northern and Western States, from the constant stream of hardy and industrious immigrants who were pouring in, exhibited miracles of progress and development, the South, with vast natural resources for mining, manufactures and agriculture, advanced in but the slow ratio of its natural increase, and immense dominions, capable of contributing untold treasures to the commerce of the world, remained hermetically sealed.

The census of the United States was conclusive upon this point, and I quote from the compendium of 1850, page 170:

Improved & c. Val. per acre.

New England States	326	\$36.01
Middle States	285	25.01
Southern States	16	5.34
Southwestern States	10	6.26
Northwestern States	13	11.39

Speaking of the policy necessary to be pursued by the South, the value of her immense resources, he remarks that the South must throw her immense uncultivated domain into the market at a low price; reduce the quantity of land held by individual proprietors, and resort to intelligent and vigorous measures at the earliest moment, to induce an influx of population and capital from abroad. This is entirely practicable.

That the landed properties of the South have been, in general, too large, and that great benefit would result to the proprietors by dispensing, at low rates, of the surplus, can scarcely be considered open to argument. Several years since I caused the returns of the United States census, of which I was then in charge, to be examined upon the point, and the result for the number of farms, which were selected at random, was as follows:

Farms. Over 100 acres.

Kentucky	945	83
Louisiana	1,558	407
South Carolina	940	2718
Michigan	3,181	30
Ohio	1,055	19
Pennsylvania	1,044	17
Rhode Island	2,250	16

The staples of the South are of such incalculable value to the commerce of the world that they have, in the past, and promise beyond all contingency in the future, to come into triumphant competition with those of every other country upon the face of the earth. Sugar, cotton, rice and tobacco, hemp and naval stores, are all articles of universal and almost unlimited demand, at prices which, considering the cost of production upon cheap land, will yield results to agricultural labor for which there is no parallel. But beyond these staple growths, the climates and soils of the vast region which stretches from the Potomac to the Rio Grande, are favorable to every product upon which industry and capital are expended in any country. The vast mineral resources which geological surveys have divulged, which no hand of industry has yet attempted to develop, and the infinite number of manufacturing sites, all present the most tempting baits to enterprise, and will open up results for it, which nothing in the history of the times has equaled, dazzling and magnificent as have been its past achievements.

Mr. DeBow makes the following valuable suggestions in reference to the mode in which capital and labor should be invited to come here:

In what manner, then, shall we proceed to invite capital and population to the South? I answer: Consult and abide by the experience of those States and communities which have grown populous and rich by the success which attended their efforts to secure immigration.

And first I would suggest the appointment of one or two commissioners from each of the States, who shall meet at some central point, say at Atlanta, Ga., or at Montgomery, Ala., and in order that no time may be lost, I would suggest that the commissioners be nominated by the Provisional Governors.

The object of the commission would be to advertise the world that our people are in earnest in the matter and in accord, and it would tend to secure such harmony of action between the States as would be most conducive to success.

The commission should be a permanent body, and should at once open correspondence with every section and district in the several States, inviting information upon the character and value of soils, and the quantity available for settlement, and the lowest cash and credit prices of the same. This information ought to be given to the public in the form of circulars and addresses, translated into German and French, and distributed abroad through our Consular agents.

The importance of energetic action and our capacity for future prosperity is thus alluded to:

If three ever was, then, a period in the history of a people, when it became necessary for them to be aroused as one man into action, and to put their shoulders to the wheel and with energy and spirit and with the determination to make a giant and master struggle, that period has come for the South. With a country wasted by long and devastating war, with habits of labor broken up, with the machinery of industry destroyed, and a great social and industrial problem to be solved under an extraneous pressure, which at times is most unreasoning and unreasonable, the condition of the South has scarcely a parallel in modern times. But dark as is the picture, there is a redeeming feature. All is not lost where the unconquerable will is left. The giant convulsion which has just shaken the land to its centre, has not been without its beneficial effects. It has stirred up a new and higher spirit. The energies which were brought into play by arms, and the intellectual resources which were called forth and exhibited themselves in the thousand appliances and resorts to which a people without machinery, without preparation, and without access to the exterior world, were driven to support a conflict with the most powerful nation upon earth, each and all are the harbingers and augury of a future for the South from which she need not shrink. Resuming her place in the mighty empire of States, no son of hers will have reason to be ashamed of her place in the picture.

Death of Judge Withers.

The South correspondent of the Charleston Courier announces the death of Hon. T. J. Withers, at his residence in Camden, on last Wednesday the 8th. The Courier says:

We have just received the sad intelligence of the decease of the Hon. T. J. Withers, one of the Supreme Judges of the State of South Carolina. One of the brightest intellects of the Commonwealth has thus passed from time to eternity. Feeble, as has been his health for some period, it was hoped that he would yet be preserved for many years to the benefit of his country.

His example and memory will yet remain. As a member of the bar, Mr. Withers, both by his personal qualities and the fitness for his profession, soon rose to distinction. Elected by the General Assembly the Solicitor for his Circuit, his reputation increased with the responsibilities of his position. As a prosecuting officer he had no superior. Impressed with a profound sense of right and a keen abhorrence of wrong, he administered the duties of his office with fidelity to the State and yet with perfect justice to the accused. His sole object was the ascertainment of truth.

He was soon after transferred to the Law Bench, and from thence to the Court of Appeals. In social and private life, Judge Withers was genial, kind and brilliant. Politically, his whole heart and mind was devoted to the interests and honor of the State, and yet he was ever conservative in his views of her relations to the Federal Government. As a jurist, he was eminent and respected. He regarded the law as a great noble science, and when properly administered, as one of the foundations and safeguards of society. He revered his profession. His loss will be severely felt. His record is one of integrity, character and ability. One of our most distinguished citizens has passed away in the maturity of his years, but his many virtues and talents yet survive to commend themselves to posterity.

THE PARDONING PROCESS.—One most interesting anecdote, witnessed by our informant, will show in what light the President views the men cowardly enough to forswear their past.

At one of the last receptions held by the President for the purposes of inquiring into every case of pardon, two men presented themselves, who, under the twenty thousand dollar clause, were applying for relief. One was a young man, not over twenty-five years, bearing on his shattered frame the evidences of many a hard fought field. The other, older, but still hale and powerful. Both from the same.

To the first, the President asked how, so young, he came to join the rebellion. He replied, he had done it from honest and sincere principles, and could not, under any circumstances, say that he repented or regretted it. The President then inquired how long he had served, where and how often he had been wounded. The youth replied, modestly but frankly, pointing to his scars, "Well, well," replied the President, "I see you have had enough of this," and instantly ordered the pardon to be granted. Then, turning to the other, he listened patiently to a long story of ardent, but concealed, Union feelings, and repeated assurances of past, present and future devotion. When the party had made out his case the President sternly inquired of him in what regiment of the Union army he had fought, and on receiving for an answer that he had never joined any, he coldly replied:—"I will take your case under advisement."

So favorable are, in short, all the reports which reach us of the President's intelligent

policy and noble heart, that the gloom which radicalism is attempting to throw over the prospects of reconstruction is rapidly dispelled under the genial sun of his liberality.

The Jamaica Insurrection.

The New York World, of the 4th, says: We are permitted to copy the following extracts from a letter received by a merchant of this city, from Kingston, Jamaica, by way of Havana:

Kingston, October 15, 1865.

Ever since this reaches New York, you will no doubt have heard of the unsettled state of the island, caused by the defection of the negroes. The wildest rumors prevail here in Kingston regarding the reported atrocities of the blacks in the interior sections of the island. It is said that the blacks are in rebellion against the white Government, remains to be ascertained. In Jamaica, as you are aware, the colored people have the preponderance, both in numbers and influence. The Legislative Assembly, corresponding to your Congress, is virtually and to all purposes a negro assembly, as not more than one-fifth of the members belong to the despised white race. The black population of the island outnumbers the white twenty to one. The Mayor of Kingston is a colored man, although he is believed to disagree with the majority of the colored people in their fanciful and visionary theories. More than three-fourths of the magistrates and officers of the Colonial Government are colored men, and several of the best educated and most prominent journalists of the island are also colored men. The police are, with very few exceptions, belonging to the same race. Still, although education is generally diffused throughout the colony, there seems to be an infernal feeling of hatred, displayed toward the white minority, on the part of the negroes.

The principal cause of this feeling toward the white man is said to be the introduction of a number of incendiary emissaries from the Northern United States, who go about among the half-educated and debased blacks, instilling false and pernicious ideas into the credulous of their too-willing hearers. These emissaries preach the doctrine of a free and independent negro republic, to whose chief magistracy they would elevate the brutal Souleque (at present residing at Kingston), or some of his mushroom nobility. We have also in our midst a large number of negroes, ignorant and brutal in their instincts, from the neighboring island of St. Domingo, who would not fail, in case of a general outbreak, to follow in the footsteps of the infamous butchers of 1835, if the chance was afforded them.

It is a sad spectacle that the blacks sent a petition detailing their financial grievances to the Queen some time ago, complaining of the high rate of provisions and other necessities of life, and demanding some means of relief.

The answer from the Home Government was, in substance, "go to work," but this did not please the half-barbarous descendants of the Maroons in the interior of the island, and since then, there have been mutterings and secret plottings on the part of the blacks, encouraged and fomented, as I am aware from personal experience, by men who should know better, from their intelligence and education. There are a great number of "helpless" white families, without protection, scattered throughout the more remote sections of the island, inaccessible to all assistance in case of an emergency. In Kingston, we depend for our safety upon a fleet of war vessels, a handful of white troops, and a regiment of African negroes from the Cape of Good Hope, who strongly evince by their bravery and conduct, the same feeling of hatred toward the colored natives of the island that the latter manifest toward the white population. In case of a universal rising all over the island I anticipate an indiscriminate massacre of white women and children as in former insurrections.

As I am about to close this letter, for the mail, I have received some very bad information from St. Elizabeth parish; through our agent there. He states that there has already been fearful work in one or two of the parishes. Several white men have been murdered in cold blood by the infuriated negroes, and their bodies mutilated in a shocking manner. It is also rumored that three accomplished young ladies, belonging to one of the best families in the parish, have been first tortured to ascertain the whereabouts of valuables, and then murdered in a most heinous manner. Terror reigns supreme in the vicinity of Black River, and the planters and law-abiding citizens are preparing themselves for the final struggle by arming and barricading their dwellings. My family, as you know, reside in the vicinity of the outbreak, and I am in dread anticipation of receiving news of their slaughter every moment. I must close my letter, for I am unfit to write any farther.

R. E. T.

A FREEDMAN WHO HAS BEEN TAUGHT TO READ THE PAPERS.—The Raleigh (N. C.) Progress mentions the following little incident as occurring in the streets of that city a few days since:

Army Chaplain—"My young colored friend can you read?"

Contraband—"Yes sah."

Army Chaplain—"Glad to hear it. Shall I give you a paper?"

Contraband—"Sartin, massa, if you please."

Army Chaplain—"Very good. What paper would you choose?"

Contraband—"Well, massa, if you chews, I'll take a paper of tibericker."

The chaplain looked at the contraband, and the contraband at the chaplain; then the latter sighed, and passed on.